



PTO/SB/08A (10-01)

Approved for use through 10/31/2002.OMB 0651-0031

U. S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Project of 1995, persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

|   |   |    |   |                          |                   |
|---|---|----|---|--------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Substitute for form 1449A/PTO</b><br><br><b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE<br/>STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b><br><br>(use as many sheets as necessary) |   |    |   | <b>Complete if Known</b> |                   |
|   |   |    |   | Application Number       | 10/730,999        |
|   |   |    |   | Filing Date              | December 10, 2003 |
|   |   |    |   | First Named Inventor     | Masayuki YAMAMOTO |
|   |   |    |   | Art Unit                 | 1734              |
|   |   |    |   | Examiner Name            | J. D. Sells       |
| Sheet   | 1 | of | 1 | Attorney Docket Number   | SUT-0231          |

| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS |                          |  |                                |  |  |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|--|--------------------------------|--|--|
| Examiner<br>Initials* | Cite<br>No. <sup>1</sup> | Document Number                          | Publication Date<br>MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant<br>of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines,<br>Where Relevant<br>Passages or Relevant<br>Figures Appear |
|                       |                          | Number-Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known) |                                |  |  |
| JS                    | AA                       | 4,696,714                                | 09/29/1987                     | Voorhees   |  |
| JS                    | AB                       | 4,239,580                                | 12/16/1980                     | Ives   |  |
| JS                    | AC                       | 4,925,515                                | 05/15/1990                     | Yoshimura et al.                                   |  |

| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS |                          |   |                                |  |  |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|--------------------------------|--|--|
| Examiner<br>Initials*    | Cite<br>No. <sup>1</sup> | Foreign Patent Document   | Publication Date<br>MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or<br>Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines,<br>Where Relevant<br>Passages or Relevant<br>Figures Appear |
|                          |                          | Country Code <sup>3</sup> -Number <sup>4</sup> -Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known) |                                |  |  |
|                          |                          |   |                                |  |  |
|                          |                          |   |                                |  |  |
|                          |                          |   |                                |  |  |

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See attached Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the application number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

| OTHER PRIOR ART - NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS |                          |  |  |
|---|--------------------------|--|--|
| Examiner<br>Initials*                             | Cite<br>No. <sup>1</sup> | Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published. |  |
|   |                          |  |  |
| JS  | BA                       | European Search Report for corresponding European Patent Application<br>(Application No.: 03028839.3)  |  |

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

DC183696

|                       |             |                    |         |
|-----------------------|-------------|--------------------|---------|
| Examiner<br>Signature | James Sells | Date<br>Considered | 5-31-05 |
|-----------------------|-------------|--------------------|---------|